Eco-Jordan
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Jordan Tourism Board

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Discover Jordan... Land of Diversity
A land that encompasses all, sea and mountain, waterfall and desert. From relaxing waters of the Dead Sea, to the amazing mountains and desert of Wadi Rum, and the flowing waterfalls of Mujib, Jordan's splendor is waiting to be explored.

Discover Jordan... Land of Wonders
The land where you can mountain-climb 400 meters below sea level, bird-watch among ancient ruins, and sea coral reefs never touched before by a human hand. From the virgin deserts to nature reserves, in Jordan you have a chance to be in touch with the elements of nature, to be in touch with yourself.

To Discover Jordan... is to rediscover yourself.
Ajloun Reserve was first established in 1988 and is located in the Ajloun Highlands in northern Jordan, around the village of Umm al-Yanabi' north of Ajloun. It is an area of rolling hills covered by dense woodlands of evergreen oak, interspersed with pistachio, carob, and wild strawberry trees. The trees have been important to local people for their wood, scenic beauty, and quite often for medicine and food. These woodlands are like the original forest animals, including herds of wild boar.

A captive-breeding programme for the locally extinct roe deer was initiated and an enclosure has been built on site, so they can be released into the forest in the near future. The roe deer is adapted to local forest habitat, and feeds on a variety of trees, shrubs and grasses. The rich Mediterranean-like forests that covered the Ajloun area provided an ideal habitat for millennia. However, deforestation and desertification over the past 200 years led to the decline in numbers of the roe deer. Three roe deer were introduced to the captive breeding enclosure in Ajloun in 1988, from a similar habitat in Turkey. Today, there are sixteen roe deer at Ajloun. The Persian Fallow Deer is another species that was once common in Jordan. This animal probably became extinct by the beginning of the 20th century and its re-introduction is now being pursued.

Birdlife International declared the area an Important Bird Area.
Ajloun Reserve

Easy trail

Scenic viewpoint trail: (2 km), taking 1-2 hours, leading from the campsite to the summit of a nearby hill overlooking the reserve. The area surrounding the trail is rich in wildflowers in the springtime. It is an excellent spot for a picnic. Not far from the campsite an old stone wine press is found. The return trip goes past the breeding enclosures of the roe deer and back to the Visitors’ Centre.

Moderate trail

Rockrose trail: (8 km), taking 4-5 hours, passing across heavily wooded valley and ridges, inside and outside the nature reserve. This highly scenic trail passes through villages and olive orchards and offers beautiful panoramic views to the West Bank and Syria. There are steep scrambles en-route that demand a reasonable level of fitness.
Ajloun is one and a half hours from Amman. From the Amman-Jarash Highway turn to the old Jarash road marked by a sign reading "Ajloun and Jarash". Turn from this road to the Ajloun road (marked by a road sign). Follow this road to Ajloun where you will find signs indicating the way to the reserve.
Shaumari Wildlife Reserve

The Shaumari Reserve was created in 1975 by the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature as a breeding centre for endangered or locally extinct wildlife. Today, following breeding programmes with some of the world’s leading wildlife parks and zoos, this small, 22-square-kilometre reserve is a thriving protected environment for some of the most rare species of animals in the Middle East. Oryx, ostriches, onagers (an Asian wild ass) and gazelles, which are depicted on many local 6th century Byzantine mosaics, are rebuilding their populations and reasserting their presence in this safe haven, protected from hunting and habitat destruction that nearly wiped them out.

The Oryx and onagers can often be seen roaming freely in their large desert grassland enclosure, and the ostriches and gazelles can be observed in their own fenced areas. Shaumari’s breeding enclosures provide a small "zoo" for visitors, making the reserve a popular spot for children and school outings.
Shaumari Wildlife Reserve

Visitors’ Centre
A playground and picnic area is located on the outside premises of the Visitors’ Centre.

Observation Tower
The observation tower provides eager animal watchers with a perfect location for spotting the Reserve’s wildlife. The early hours of the morning are in particular the best for observing the Oryx in its natural environment.

Wildlife
The Shaumari area once contained an abundance of large animals, including gazelles, Oryx, onager, ostrich, cheetah, hyena and wolf. While most of these animals have disappeared from Shaumari altogether, some are now a part of the pioneering wildlife reintroduction programme.
Shaumari Wildlife Reserve

The Arabian Oryx’s Story

The Arabian Oryx, an elegant white antelope, is one of the few mammals indigenous to the Arabian Peninsula. It became extinct in Jordan around the 1920s, as a result of the increased hunting for its meat, coat and horns. The increasing range and power of rifles compounded by the factor of motorized vehicles were the key to the extinction of the Oryx. The last known wild Arabian Oryx in the world was killed by hunters in Oman in 1972.

Fortunately, previous to this incident, in 1962, the Flora and Fauna Preservation Society and the World Wildlife Fund had launched an international rescue effort known as Operation Oryx. A world survival herd was established in the USA, with three animals from Oman, one from the London zoo, one from Kuwait, and four from Saudi Arabia. This herd increased steadily in numbers, and the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature proposed that the Arabian Oryx should be reintroduced into its native habitat in the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula.

In 1978, eleven Arabian Oryx were relocated in Shaumari. The number of Oryx has now increased to a phenomenal two hundred! Operation Oryx has been so successful that Jordan now supplies Oryx to other countries, which are conducting reintroduction programmes.

Getting there & road map:

See under following chapter “Azraq Wetland Reserve.”
Azraq is a unique wetland oasis located in the heart of the semi-arid Jordanian eastern desert, one of several beautiful nature reserves managed by the RSCN. Its attractions include several natural and ancient built pools, a seasonally flooded marshland, and a large mudflat known as Qa‘ al-Azraq. A wide variety of birds stop at the reserve each year for a rest during their arduous migration routes between Europe and Africa. Some stay for the winter or breed within the protected areas of the wetland.

Wildlife

The Azraq Oasis derives its name from the Arabic word “Azraq”, meaning blue. In the past, the pools, marshes and streams of Azraq formed a sparkling blue jewel in the desert, a haven for up to a million migrating, breeding and wintering birds. Despite the loss of most of the permanent wetland habitat during the past decade, due to a lack of rainfall, Azraq continues to provide a seasonal habitat for a large number of wildlife species.
Azraq Wetland Reserve

Visitors' Centre

The new Visitors' Centre holds a small but impressive museum with an aquarium and biotope showcases vividly telling the story of the ancient oasis and its modern ecological threats. Slide shows and videos as well as guided tours are being offered. In the Nature Shop you can find typical local products such as handmade reed toys and painted ostrich eggshells.

Accommodation

The Azraq Lodge of the RSCN with its 5 bedrooms and a cozy common room with a fireplace, is set within the beautiful surroundings of Azraq. In addition to the lodge, 10 two-room bungalows are available to accommodate the visiting tourist. Bookings can be made at the RSCN headquarters in Amman or on site at the RSCN Lodge.
To Azraq:

Azraq is one and a half hour drive from Amman. There are two major routes leading to Azraq:

• Desert Highway:
  From the Desert Highway, take the Madaba turn and go east (in the opposite direction from Madaba). Follow the road signs to Azraq.

• Zarqa Highway:
  In Amman, go east on King Abdullah Street, driving past the Roman Theatre to join the Amman-Zarqa Highway. The road to Azraq branches off from the highway before you reach Zarqa.

To Shaumari:

Upon reaching South Azraq (Azraq al-Janubi), make a right turn on the Saudi Arabian Highway. Make another right turn after about 15 km at the entrance road to Shaumari Wildlife Reserve.
The Baptism Site at “Bethany beyond the Jordan” (John 1:28) is one of the most recent significant archaeological and religious discoveries. In addition to its unique spiritual and cultural aspects, the site harbours some special natural values, which makes it a true ecotourism location.

“Bethany beyond the Jordan” includes a salt marsh wetland, which is stretching along Wadi al-Kharrar. The wadi is a tributary of the Jordan River and is located within its larger flood plain, between the monastic complex on Elijah’s Hill and the Jordan itself. The wetland area is following the stream of Wadi al-Kharrar and contains typical flora and fauna: tree frog and marsh frog as well as several species of hydrophilic dragonflies, water beetles and some crustaceans.
In addition, a considerable number of migratory and wetland birds are recorded at the site. Birdlife International and Wetland International have both declared the whole Jordan River basin as significant bird and wetland areas; and many birds, mammal and reptiles within the site are on the IUCN Red List as regionally or globally threatened or endangered species.

Taking into account vegetation type and water availability, the Baptism Site wetland ecosystem includes five distinguished habitats:

- **Dense Reed Beds**: Consisting mainly of Phragmites australis. These beds provide the perfect feeding and roosting area for many reptiles, birds, and mammals, and are ecologically important for crustaceans and dragonflies.

- **Tamarix Woodland**: Consisting mainly of Tamarix Jordanis. These are important feeding and roosting areas for bird species such as Turtle Dove, Palm Dove, Collard Dove, White-breasted Kingfisher, Dead Sea Sparrow and Black Francolin.

- **Salty and brackish water marshes**: These marshes are vital for migratory waterfowl and are ecologically important for fresh water and wetland animals and plants such as algae, weeds, dragonflies, crustaceans, amphibians and others.

- **Sediment Foothills**: These are dry sandy hills with scarce vegetation and many small holes and caves. They provide excellent grounds for many reptiles, birds and mammals to occupy and colonize.
• **Jordan River**: The banks of the river are heavily dense with semi-tropical and wetland vegetation, offering refuge for many migratory birds and giving life to a whole complex and interdependent biological community. The river itself is full with fifteen species of fresh water fish, some of which are endemic to the Levant.

The Baptism Site at “Bethany beyond the Jordan” has many values. On one hand it reflects the diversity of the Jordanian tourism as an archaeological, natural and religious site, on the other hand Bethany’s rediscovery was made possible by the peace treaty with Israel, and is considered a dividend of peace. The historical, spiritual and ecological significance necessitated a careful and comprehensive planning of the newly opened archaeological park and nature reserve, whereby the continuing and almost daily uncovering of new treasures was accompanied by the most thorough planning for the safety and preservation of the antiquities and the ecological system.
Bethany is only 40 minutes away from Amman. Take the Airport Highway south of Amman and turn right where the brown sign indicates the road to the Dead Sea. Fifteen minutes before reaching the Dead Sea, the signs will indicate Bethany's location.
The Dead Sea eastern coast in Jordan is one of the most spectacular natural and spiritual landscapes in the whole world. A series of new roads, hotels and archaeological discoveries are converging to make this region, the lowest spot on earth at 410 metres below sea level, as enticing to international visitors today as it was to kings, emperors, traders and prophets in antiquity.

The leading attraction at the Dead Sea is the warm, soothing, super-salty seawater, which is nine times saltier than Mediterranean sea water. It is rich in chloride salts of magnesium, sodium and potassium, in bromine, potash and several other minerals and salts. This unusually salty, buoyant and mineral-rich water has attracted visitors since ancient times, all of whom have floated effortlessly on their backs while soaking up the water’s healthy minerals along with the more gentle, filtered rays of the Jordanian sun.
Dead Sea

The Dead Sea's total attraction is due to its unique combination of several factors: the chemical composition of its water, the filtered sun rays and oxygen-rich air, the mineral-rich black mud along the shoreline, and the adjacent fresh water and thermal mineral springs.

The three beach hotels with their adjacent spa facilities - Mövenpick Resort & Spa and Jordan Valley Marriott Resort (5-stars), and the Dead Sea Spa (4-star) - allows visitors to stay in the Dead Sea area while exploring its many attractions.

Getting there:

From Amman, take the Airport Highway until you see the Dead Sea sign. Take your right and follow the signs until you reach the Dead Sea.
The Mujib Nature Reserve is the lowest-altitude nature reserve in the world, with its spectacular array of scenery near the east coast of the Dead Sea. The reserve is located within the deep Wadi Mujib gorge, which enters the Dead Sea at 410 metres below sea level. The Reserve extends to the Karak and Madaba mountains to the north and south, reaching 900 metres above sea level in some places. This 1,300 metre variation in elevation, combined with the valley's year-round water flow from seven tributaries, means that Wadi Mujib enjoys a magnificent biodiversity that is still being explored and documented today. Over 420 species of plants, 10 species of carnivores (Red fox, Blandford fox, Hyena, Jackal, Wild cat, Caracal, Badger, Mongoose, Wolf and Arabian Leopard), and 102 species of permanent and migratory birds have been recorded until this date. Some of the remote mountain and valley areas are difficult to reach, and thus offer safe havens for rare species of cats, goats and other mountain animals.
Mujib Nature Reserve

Wondrous Wildlife

Mujib’s sandstone cliffs are an ideal habitat for one of the most beautiful mountain goats in the world, the Nubian Ibex. The natural Ibex herds had declined due to over-hunting in easily accessible areas, causing the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) to establish a captive-breeding programme for Ibex in the Mujib reserve.

Mujib is also the home of carnivorous species such as the Caracal; a medium-sized cat distinguished by its black and white ear tufts. An agile and powerful hunter, the Caracal can be spotted in action in the rocky valley of Mujib, using its amazing jumping power to catch airborne prey.
Mujib Nature Reserve

Hiking Trails

The Reserve has two main hiking trails:

1) The circular trail allowing 4 groups a week with maximum 25 persons per group, starts 3 km south of the Mujib bridge along the Dead Sea and offers 5 to 6 hours of hiking and swimming through the Wadi Mujib system.

2) The lower trail also starts from the same bridge and offers a 1 to 2 hour hike up the river; you have to swim through natural water pools including the one at the big waterfall. Life jackets are provided by the Reserve’s office.

For those who appreciate nature and adventure, a hike through the Wadi system may prove to be a challenging exercise rejuvenating the body and the mind.
Site for Campers

A designated campsite is available with a hosting capacity of 25 persons per day. It contains five large tents, barbecue grills and toilets for visitors and campers. A Reserve vehicle is provided to drop off luggage while campers walk to the camping area. For reservations, contact the RSCN. Tel. +962 6 5337931, Fax +962 6 5347411, e-mail: tourism@rscn.org.jo

Getting there:

The trip to Mujib Nature Reserve from Jordan's capital city Amman is approximately an hour and a half drive. The route takes visitors along the scenic Dead Sea-Aqaba highway all the way to the Mujib Bridge, where the Reserve's office is located (always call in advance).
Dana Nature Reserve

Wildlife

The Reserve contains a remarkable diversity of landscapes that range from wooded highlands to rocky slopes, and from gravel plains to dunes of sand. Moreover, Dana supports diverse wildlife, which includes a variety of rare species of plants and animals; Dana is home to about 703 species of plants, 38 species of mammals and 215 species of birds.

Dana Nature Reserve (308 square kms) is a world of natural treasures. It is composed of a chain of valleys and mountains, which extend from the top of the Jordan Rift Valley down to the desert lowlands of Wadi Araba. The beauty of the Rummana mountain, the mystery of the ancient archaeological ruins of Feinan, the timeless serenity of Dana village and the grandeur of the red and white sandstone cliffs of Wadi Dana will awe the visitor to this area.
People with Charm & History

The Dana village area, which overlooks the scenic Wadi Dana, has witnessed human settlement since about 4000 BC (6,000 years ago). Evidence unveiled by archaeological exploration shows that Paleolithic, Egyptian, Nabataean and Roman civilizations were drawn to the area by the fertility of the soil, the water springs and the strategic location. The people who inhabit Dana village today are the Al-Ata’eh tribe. They settled and built the village during Ottoman times about 400 years ago.

Services for Visitors

Visitors will find a range of services available at the reserve, including a Guest House, a Nature Shop and a Visitors’ Centre at the Dana village. Brief information will be given to the visitors at the Tower entrance. Available are two campsites at Rummana and Feinan areas and an assortment of hiking trails. Rangers offer a variety of guided hikes to key locations in the reserve.

Dana Centre

The Dana Centre is a complex of buildings located at the edge of the village. The centre is made up of three parts: the Dana Guest House, the Dana Nature Shop and the Visitors’ Centre.

Dana Guest House
Perched on the edge of Wadi Dana, the Guest House offers a breathtaking view of the reserve. It contains nine comfortably furnished bedrooms with private terraces, and good facilities for meetings and conferences. Reservations are strongly recommended.

Nature Shop
The Dana Nature Shop sells organically grown produce from the village gardens, in addition to silver jewellery and pottery crafted by the women of Dana village.

Dana Visitors’ Centre
The centre provides information about Dana and the RSCN.
Facilities for Camping

Rummana Campsite:

The Rummana Campsite can accommodate 60 persons per day and 75 persons for a daily visit. It is open for overnight visitors from 1st March to 31st October.

The campsite contains 20 large tents, barbecue grills, toilets and showers for visitor use. Each tent comes equipped with mattresses and pillows. Drinking water is available, gas cookers may be rented and catering services can be provided for groups of six or more.

Camping is not permitted outside the designated camping area.

Feinan Campsite:

This campsite is simpler by comparison to the Rummana camp. The capacity of this camp is 40 visitors per night. The campsite contains a kitchen, 10 tents, toilets and showers. Each tent is equipped with mattresses and pillows. Drinking water is also available. Feinan Campsite is open year round.
Dana Nature Reserve

Getting there:

Dana Reserve is located near the scenic King's Highway, from Amman though Dana is much faster to reach via Desert Highway. Short after the village of Husayniya, leave the Desert Highway before the bridge and turn right on a road leading to the King's Highway. After about 22 km pass the cement factory of Rashadiya on your left and you reach the junction with the King's Highway.

To the Tower Centre/Rummana:
At the junction turn right and follow the signs to the Tower entrance.

To Dana Centre:
Make a left turn at the junction and drive on the King's Highway, pass by the first houses of Qadisiya and turn right following the signs to Dana village.

Access to Feinan:
Access to Feinan is possible from the village of Greigra (on some maps Qurrayqirra) via a 4WD vehicle. Greigra is connected to the Dead Sea-Aqaba highway by an asphalt road (3 hours from Amman, 2 hours from Aqaba).

Feinan can also be reached by a four to five hour hike from Dana village.
Famously described by T. E. Lawrence (Lawrence of Arabia) as "Vast, echoing and God-like", and acclaimed by many as one of the most stunning desertscape in the world, Wadi Rum is a nature-lover's paradise.

Serious mountaineers relish its challenging climbs (some more than 900 metres up sheer granite and sandstone cliffs), while casual hikers enjoy the peace and tranquility of its sweeping vistas, towering rock faces and boundless empty spaces. Those of calm disposition will probably prefer a camel ride or a night under the stars in a Bedouin tent.

Nature lovers will be drawn to the desert in springtime, when rains bring the greening of the hills and hundreds of species of wild flowers.

Options for exploring Wadi Rum include 4WD vehicles and camel rides. The best way, however, to experience Rum's grandeur is by hiking on foot and camping. Camel trips from the wadi to either Aqaba (several days) or Petra (about a week) may also be arranged.
Wadi Rum Protected Area

The Landscape

Wadi Rum’s beauty can only be described as breathtaking. One of Jordan’s main tourist attractions, the area is spotted with fascinating sandstone mountains decorated with an array of colours. The magnificent colours of the mountains spill into the sand dunes scattered all over the reserve.

Wildlife

Wadi Rum holds plants both rare and endemic to its ecosystem. A greater emphasis has been put on the Wadi’s fauna after a baseline survey detected the existence of the Gray Wolf, Blandford’s Fox, the Sand Cat and the Ibex within the area. Additionally, the site is an ideal area for bird watching with its 120-recorded species.
Wadi Rum Protected Area

Exploration – the adventurous way

The vast beauty of Wadi Rum can be further explored on 4WD vehicle tours that take you deep into the heart of the desert. Camping, hiking and camel riding are only a few of the activities that can be organised through your travel agent.

Getting there:

By car or taxi: From Amman, for the faster trip, take the Desert Highway, approximately 300km south, directly to Wadi Rum. For a more scenic route, take the King's Highway through Petra. Aqaba is a one-hour drive from Wadi Rum.

By bus: From Amman minibuses offer regular services in air-conditioned coaches to the south of Jordan. Contact your travel agent for further details.
Wadi Rum Protected Area

Fixed constellations at Wadi Rum
(can be seen year round)

Sunset site: Umm Sabatah (Winter)
Sunrise site: Tell Hassan

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The Gulf of Aqaba

The coastal city of Aqaba communicates to the visitor both its striking beauty and grace. Touching the Red Sea are a series of peaceful mountains and a riveting desert reflecting onto the clear blue waters. The northeastern arm of the Red Sea, called the Gulf of Aqaba, measures a length of 180 km and expands to a width of 25 km with 27 km of the shoreline belonging to Jordan. The rest of the shoreline is shared with Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Israel. A boat ride to the centre of the Gulf provides a visitor with an outstanding view of all four shoreline countries!

The Gulf of Aqaba is renowned worldwide as a tourist's paradise overflowing with wildlife and adventure. It hosts about 110 species of soft corals, 120 species of hard corals and over 1000 species of fish. The city of Aqaba itself is a natural haven for scuba diving, snorkelling or scientific exploration, and is bound to keep any visitor busy. Aqaba's average water temperature of 23 degrees Celsius allows the water-activity oriented tourist to enjoy the sea year round.

Marine Life

The absence of stormy weather, along with the mild water currents contribute to clear waters, one of Aqaba's exceptional environmental conditions. Warm, clear waters provide a hospitable environment for the growth of corals, and favourable salinity levels provide an environment for myriad varieties of marine-life forms.
The Gulf of Aqaba

Spectacular Coral Reefs

Contrary to what many people think, corals are not plants but very delicate animals. Due to their slow rate of growth (about 1 cm/year), the corals that are seen today in the Gulf are centuries old.

Besides being a main tourist attraction, the coral reef plays an important role in supporting the survival of various life forms. Thousands of marine creatures coexist in a complex ecosystem ranging from almost invisible species to huge fish and large mammals.

The warm waters of Aqaba provide a perfect habitat for an array of unique and dazzlingly coloured fish. Due to Aqaba’s clear waters, this rainbow of colours can be seen without even having to enter the water by looking down from a boat.

The shores of the Gulf are also frequented with friendly sea turtles that spend their time swimming amongst the swirling schools of fish. Harmless whale sharks, dolphins, and sea cows are also often spotted visiting the gulf.

Corals, coral fish, reptiles and mammals are only some to be named of the countless marine creatures living in the waters of Aqaba. Nocturnal animals such as the crab, shrimp and lobster come alive in search of food in the dark hours of the night.
The Gulf of Aqaba

Preserve Aqaba

Although the Gulf of Aqaba provides the perfect habitat for more than a thousand fish species, the existing marine ecosystems are fragile and in danger.

Overfishing, industrial activities, improper diving attitudes like stepping on coral and feeding fish, and careless anchoring create a threat to the natural balance and sustainability of the reef’s ecosystem.

Concerned divers, tourists and even the everyday beach goer can chip in and do their bit in protecting this natural treasure created of centuries. By simply abiding to general common sense rules, one can help preserve the marine life of Aqaba for generations to come.
The Gulf of Aqaba

Getting there:

Aqaba via the Dead Sea road is about 4 hours drive from Amman, along the Desert Highway also 4 hours and the scenic King’s Highway 5 hours.

Organized bus tours as well as daily flights to Aqaba are available. You can also take a service taxi from Wkhde Station at al-Sharq al-Awsat circle in south Amman. These taxi trips are not scheduled. Taxis start their trips as soon as they are full with passengers.
The Gulf of Aqaba

IMPORTANT SITES
1. ASEZA
2. Radisson SAS Hotel
3. Aquamarina I Hotel
4. Old Church
5. Mövenpick Aqaba
6. Golden Tulip Hotel
7. Aqaba Gulf Hotel
8. Royal Yacht Club
9. Aqaba Municipality
10. Domina Aquamarina II Hotel
11. Jordan National Shipping Lines
12. Princess Haya Hospital
13. Health Directorate
14. Fire Department
15. Domina Aquamarina III Hotel
16. Petra International Hotel
17. Police Station
18. Crystal Hotel
19. Aqaba Mamluk Fort

Map Legend
- Information Centre
- Museum
- Archaeological site
- Water Games
- Multi-Use Zone
- Coral Reefs – Strict Reserve Zone
- Bait Fishing Zone

Diving Sites of Aqaba
- Al-Braij Power Station
- Public Beach Car Park & Bathrooms
- Al-Yamaniyah Car Park & Bathrooms
- King Abdullah Hot Black Rock Rainbow Reef
- Japanese Gardens
- Gorgon I & II
- Blue Coral
- Al-Mamalah
- Al-Junayneyah
- Al-Dereh Sulfur Border Wall
- Royal Diving Centre
Bird-watching from all over the world have started organising weeklong trips to Jordan to enjoy the sight of some rare species of indigenous birds and others that migrate annually between the northern and southern hemispheres. Jordan's location at the crossroads of Europe, Asia and Africa means that birds from these three continents can sometimes be spotted in the same general area in Jordan.

Jordan's remarkable variety of habitats - from rugged mountains and evergreen woodlands to scrubby steppe and hot deserts - also makes for a dazzling variety of bird species. Jordan's segment of the Syrian-African Rift Valley is something of a high-traffic crossroads on the main migration routes for birds moving between Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Russia, towards Africa and back. At certain times of the year, the skies over the Rift Valley are full of circling birds of prey.

The pleasure of bird watching in Jordan is also enhanced by the genuine friendliness of the Jordanian people, and the opportunity to combine bird watching with trips to some of the Middle East's most awesome ancient and natural wonders, such as Petra, Wadi Rum, or the Dead Sea.
**Bird Watching**

**What sort of birds can you see?**

The Eastern Desert habitat, including the Azraq oasis with its Wetland Reserve, is home to local desert and aquatic species, and is periodically visited by migrants. The species one can meet here include Temminck’s Horned Lark, Desert Lark, Hoopoe Lark, Desert Wheatear and Trumpeter Finch. In winter, Cranes and Imperial Eagles roam across this area, and in the Desert Castles area east of Amman you can see Thick-billed Lark and Red-rumped Wheatears.

In the western highlands, the Mediterranean habitats surrounded by open steppe country - the wooded areas of the north (Zubia, Ajloun and Dibbin), and Dana in the south - are home to the Palestine Sunbird and different Warblers (Upcher's, Orphee and Sardinian). The more open steppe habitats typically contain the Spectacled Warbler, Long-billed Pipit, Black-eared Wheatear, Woodchat Shrike and Linnet.

The rift margins and valleys of the western highlands of four biogeographic zones, Wadi Shu'ayb and Wadi Mujib with their perennial watercourses are home to beautiful White-breasted Kingfisher, while at the magnificent rocky gorges of Wadi Rum, Dana, Mujib and Petra you can find the Griffon Vulture, Bonelli's Eagle, Hume's Tawny Owl, Blackstart, different Wheatears, Scrub Warbler, Sinai Rosefinch, House Bunting, Tristram's Grackle and Fan-tailed Raven.

The Dead Sea area and Wadi Araba are home to Arabian and African species such as the Sand Partridge, Bar-tailed lark, Dunn's lark, Hoopoe Lark, Little Green Bee-eater, Blackstart and Arabian Babbler.

Several fine colour guides to bird watching in Jordan have been published in recent years.

**Important Bird Areas [IBAs] in Jordan**

A total of 17 sites have been declared as IBAs in Jordan, covering 9.5% of Jordan's area. Both of Jordan’s national parks, and the six nature reserves are IBAs.

Five of the IBA sites are fully protected by law, five are partially protected, and two further are officially proposed for legal protection.
Application for Membership

Name(s):
Address:
Post code:

Signature:  Date:  /  /

If you would like a family membership, please fill in the names and dates of birth of children

Name:  Date of Birth:  /  /  Name:  Date of Birth:  /  /
Name:  Date of Birth:  /  /  Name:  Date of Birth:  /  /
Name:  Date of Birth:  /  /  Name:  Date of Birth:  /  /

For nature lovers
Application for Membership

The RSCN is concerned with conserving wildlife and the environment in Jordan. Sadly, today, many animal and plant species have become under threat of extinction. This is why RSCN has decided to start breeding some of Jordan’s threatened animals in captivity.

RSCN now offers you an opportunity to contribute directly to its fight to save endangered animals.

If you want to become a member of the RSCN, or to adopt an animal, please fill in the form and send to:
P.O.Box: 6354 Amman 11183 Jordan, E-mail: tourism@rscn.org.jo, www.rscn.org.jo

Membership Categories:
• Individual membership 15 JD per year.
• Family membership 20 JD per year.
• Corporate membership 100 JD per year.
• Student membership 7.5 JD per year.

Membership Benefits at RSCN
• Reduced admission fees to the reserves.
• Four issues of Al-Reem.
• A newsletter for members four times a year.
• An event program including a number of activities.

Animals in RSCN’s Adoption Scheme
• Roe deer  JD40
• Goitred gazelle  JD30
• Dorcas gazelle  JD30
• Nubian ibex  JD30
• Arabian oryx  JD60
• Ostrich  JD50
• Onager  JD40
• Persian fallow deer  JD40

Adoptive parent Benefits at RSCN
• A personal adoptive "parent certificate".
• A photograph of your animal.
• Information sheet with details of the adopted animal.
• A free entry ticket to the reserve where your animal lives.
• Your name on a special notice-board in the reserve.
• A car sticker and a badge / pin.

Animal Adoption Scheme

I would like to adopt an animal and help the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature in its fight to save endangered species from extinction.

Name(s):
Address:
Postcode:

Signature:  Date:  /  /
Guidelines
For Visitors

A few basic guidelines

- Experience the day today life of the people around you. Interact with the local community while showing respect for its laws and customs.
- Practice a few phrases in Arabic. People will appreciate your efforts. Please is min fadlak in Arabic and thank you is shukran.
- Ask permission before photographing or videotaping persons.
- Support the local economy whenever possible by buying local produce.
- In hotels, turn off lights and adjust thermostats to conserve energy before leaving your room.

Help preserve...

Helping preserve the beautiful nature can be achieved through following some simple steps. Here are a few tips:
- Keep noise levels down as noise can disturb birds and other animals.
- Keep to proper footpaths, do not feed wildlife and do not pick flowers or other plants.
- Do not damage trees and do not spray historic monuments with graffiti.
- Water is scarce in Jordan, so please practice conservation and keep water sources clean.
-Stick to designated roads when driving. Off-road motoring is both risky and damaging to the environment.
- Fire making is strictly prohibited in all reserves, except in designated barbecue pits.
- Do not approach, threaten or feed wild animals.
- During heavy rainfall, avoid low-lying areas such as canyon floors that are susceptible to sudden flash floods.
- Bring your own water for drinking and cooking, as natural water sources may not always be clean or accessible.
- If you do use water from a spring or stream, treat it by boiling or with purification tablets.

When in a nature trip...

- Avoid hiking alone or in the dark.
- Watch your footing on rocky or steep slopes, and always stay on the trail.
Remember to bring ...

water, a hat, comfortable hiking shoes, a camera, binoculars, and identification guides for wildlife. For overnight camping trips, take a sleeping bag or blankets, food, and plastic bags for garbage. It is always a good idea to carry a flashlight, a compass, matches, waterproof clothing, and a first aid kit.

By minimizing your impact on the wildlife, you will help to protect and preserve the sanctity of Jordan's nature for future generations to enjoy.